

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8421

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

CHMN USDEL JBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO

USCINCSO CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BR, OVIP (ELLSWORTH, ROBERT)

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA OF DEPUTY
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

REF: (A) STATE 259454 (B) BRASILIA 8820

1. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, PROPOSED VISIT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH (REFTEL A) CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN OUR ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH THE GOB RE BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. WE WILL, OF COURSE, WANT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE AGENDA WE PROPOSE FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETINGS HERE, AND SOUND OUT THE GOB RE THEIR IDEAS ABOUT THE AGENDA WHEN WE APPROACH ITAMARATY ABOUT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DESIRE TO VISIT. BRAZILIANS DO NOT WARM TO PURELY COURTESY VISITS BY HIGH RANKING VISITORS AND VISIT SHOULD HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE PURPOSE. EMBASSY WILL BE FORWARDING SOME AGENDA SUGGESTIONS FOR DOD/STATE CONSIDERATION.

2. UPON REFLECTION WE THINK TIMING PROPOSED IN REFTTEL A IS INADVISABLE. DEPUTY SECRETARY WOULD BE VERY VISIBLE AS A HIGH-RANKING USG OFFICIAL IN BRAZIL DURING THE LAST WEEK OF A SENSITIVE MAJOR ELECTION CAMPAIGN UPON WHICH NATIONAL ATTENTION FOCUSSED BEFORE NOVEMBER 15 VOTE. HIS VISIT WILL ALSO BE ASSOCIATED WITH DEBATE PERCOLATING THROUGH THE PRESS THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS (REF B) ABOUT CREATION
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OF A SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN CONE

STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA IN WAKE OF SOVIET-ANGOLAN AGREEMENTS. IN PRESENT CLIMATE, PRESS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY SPECULATE ABOUT ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT AND PROPOSED PACT. WE JUDGE, HOWEVER, SOUTH ATLANTIC DEBATE WILL PROBABLY HAVE RUN ITS COURSE BY THE END OF NOVEMBER.

3. WE RECOMMEND DEPUTY SECRETARY POSTPONE HIS ARRIVAL HERE ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO PERMIT VISIT TOWARDS THE END OF NOVEMBER-EARLY DECEMBER.
CRIMMINS

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